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they back it up. The book is a great collection of interesting items that figure in geography and many of them are shown to be related to the earth.

MARK JEFFERSON.

**Tahiti.** *Memoirs of Ariitaimai e Marama of Eimeo Teriirere of Toorai Teriinui of Tahiti Tauraatua i Amo.* 196 pp., and Map. Henry Adams, Paris, 1901.

How is it that the interesting memories of Ariitaimai, of the best blood of Tahiti, daughter of the high gods, after all these years have come to light in English and from Paris. Only at the climax of her life do we find any recognition of the work of an assisting hand, and then only so much as may be implied in the single sentence "I repeat it in my own words which are more lifelike than any that an editor could use."

A quarter of a century ago Mrs. Salmon was the most interesting figure in the eyes of all such as sought to know more of Tahiti than could be seen along the Broom Road or in the gay glitter of Papeete. She was the last of a great race, the greatest race of her folk, the one survivor of four lines of masterful chiefs. Not in Tahiti was there a mate for her, she chose an Englishman and never regretted her choice, and her son Tati Salmon carries her nobility undiluted. To those for whom she chose to permit acquaintance to be warmed by courtly intimacy she was a mine of information as to the present and the long past of her people. Those who have had the pleasure of hearing her words will be disappointed to find that with her the pen is far short of the tongue.

The most instant value of these memoirs lies in the check upon the blunders of the early voyagers. Beginning with Wallis and the discovery of Tahiti in 1767 she brings names to the correct spelling, yet there are many which have evaded even her ingenuity. However this is not the case with Wallis's "my princess, or rather queen" whose name he never knew, although he was dissolved in tears at their parting. Cook discovered her to be Oberea, and Mrs. Salmon is in a position to give her name truly, for she was her aunt Purea. If for nothing else the work would be valuable as enabling us to elaborate a series of satisfactory footnotes to Cook, Forster, Hawkesworth and the missionary voyage of the Duff. This holds good beyond mere names, the good lady explains much that was a mystery to the early voyagers.

But Ariitaimai supplies a greater puzzle of her own. Mrs. Salmon was very wise in the lore of her race, she was a library of tradition and genealogy. On the other hand the writer of these memoirs is at fault in all the history which is not set down in print in foreign works. At the beginning of chapter xv it is written: "but as I come to the dark ages of our history, between 1800 and 1815, I find a want of records and traditions that shows how narrowly our family must have escaped the fate of almost every other chiefly race." The gap is in the European accounts of Tahiti, the period in which the London missionaries had fled for life; such a gap can scarcely be conceived to exist for the Mrs. Salmon known to us. It is hard to understand.

The frame of mind of the writer of these memoirs is wholly European, the thought is not Polynesian at all, the writer writes of Tahitian affairs as one who comprehends from without imperfectly inward and not as one to whom all these things are known from childhood. This holds good not only of the early parts

of the work but of the final chapter distinctly stated to be "in my own words." We can discover no difference in diction or turn of thought between the two parts.

There is a particular interest attaching to the last chapter, the events of 1846 with which the narrative closes, although Mrs. Salmon lived a long life after that. There are not wanting those in Tahiti who declare her a traitor. Certainly she acted on the side of the French and was the agent of Bruat in securing the surrender of Aimata, the last sovereign of the Pomare title. They had been brought up together as children, but Ariitaimai is at no pains to hide her disdain of such inferior royalty as that of the Pomares with their initial taint of Paumotu blood. Her narrative should be read in connection with the early chapters of Pritchard's "Polynesian Reminiscences." She pays her respects to the elder Pritchard. More gallant or less observant, the junior Pritchard leaves her out of his somewhat envenomed narrative of the same events. Yet it matters little now. It would be vanity indeed to seek to find out verities in the fated downfall before European needs of an impractical South Sea monarchy.

It is a most interesting volume yet one which may not safely be cited haphazard as authority.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

#### **The Geology of the Whangaroa Subdivision, Hokianga Division.**

By J. M. Bell and E. de C. Clarke, New Zealand Geol. Survey, Department of Mines, *Bull.* 8 (N. S.) pp. 1-115, 17 illustrations, 8 maps, and 4 geological sections. Wellington, N. Z., 1909.

This report continues the description of New Zealand along lines laid down in the first reports of the series. The division forms the northern part of the mainland of North Island. In the first chapter is an excellent description of the chief geographic features of the region, the fauna, flora, timber, climate, early history, population, industries and means of communication. Of special interest is the description of the Kauri Bush, and the discussion of the various types of vegetation that respond in their distribution and character to the physical geography of the region. On p. 16 is a description of the lumbering methods employed where the rough country and lack of population make ordinary methods difficult.

Perhaps the most curious industry is the gathering of kauri gum that still supports a kind of semi-nomadic population. The gum is dug from almost treeless gumfields where once great forests stood that were probably destroyed by the Maoris. The gum is usually but a few inches below the surface and in the swamps is found at all levels as far as ten feet below. The earth is probed with a spear and when a find is made the gum is either unearthed by digging or is brought to the surface by a hooked spear.

The chief physiographic features may be described as an uplifted and faulted peneplain maturely dissected, and, more recently, slightly depressed. Two erosion levels have been identified, each ancient surface having been to a certain extent masked by lavas and breccias before uplift and dissection began. The various topographic districts to which these events gave rise are discussed in detail. The description of the many interesting shore features is especially full and well illustrated. The greater part of the report deals with the geology of the region with especial reference to the occurrence and development of economic resources.

ISAIAH BOWMAN.